

## *How To Apply For a Stipend*

To apply for an annual \$500 stipend, the applicant must complete a **written application** and provide a current status of his or her **definitive diagnosis** of cancer in the form of a doctor's note confirming the diagnosis, or copy of a medical record showing a cancer diagnosis. If the outcome of a test for cancer is a 'suspicious' result, or indicates a 'possible' malignancy it does not meet the requirements of a definitive diagnosis. For legal and administrative reasons, stipends cannot be awarded to applicants who have passed prior to application approval. The turnaround time is three days from submission to award.

**Application Available  
at the Coalition Office**



### American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition

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Follow us on **Facebook!**

## Cancer Patient Stipend Program



*Helping the people of  
American Samoa fight Cancer*

**Supported by the  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
grant D17AP00037**



## Where Does the Money Come From?

Cancer has touched the lives of many people in American Samoa—it is the second leading cause of death here. For this reason, we have no shortage of donors who generously support Coalition fundraisers such as the annual **Swing Into Action golf tournament**, the annual **Christmas ACE Angels** matching donation drive, and various fundraisers held by community service organizations and businesses like the Leone High School Green Club, Tafuna High School National Honor Society, and **Le Afi Energy's \$1-A-Tank**.

Every penny donated goes into the Stipend fund. No overhead or other expenses are paid. The program is run by Coalition volunteers! To help, please call the Coalition office at 699 -0110 or message us on Facebook!

## What is Tautai Lavea'i?

The literal translation is 'steersman' (Tautai) and 'to deliver' (Lavea'i). In this case, the 'patient navigator' or Tautai, steers the cancer patient through the maze that is our healthcare system to reach a point, or deliver the patient, to a point where he/she can make an informed decision to act on his or her cancer diagnosis.

The **Goal** is to save lives from cancer by identifying and mitigating barriers to care, thereby improving timely access to life saving diagnostics and treatment. The **Scope** of Tautai Lavea'i begins with a definitive cancer diagnosis and ends with the patient's decision to act on this diagnosis.

The Tautai **aims** to build trust and a rapport with each applicant in order to establish effective communication with him/her and family members. The Tautai will answer patient questions, refer to appropriate services, identify barriers to decision-making and action to address the cancer diagnosis, and help the patient overcome those barriers. These can range from not understanding the diagnosis and treatment alternatives, to applying for travel documents and communicating with off-island healthcare providers. The Tautai can also connect the patient to cancer survivors on-island who can provide one-on-one consultation. The Tautai will respect the patient's wishes, keep all information confidential, and act with compassion and empathy at all times.

**Ultimately, the Tautai will steer the patient towards an informed action or resolution to the cancer diagnosis.**

## What is the Cancer Coalition?

In 2005 a group of community members acted on their concern about the increasing number of Samoans being diagnosed with cancer. They incorporated the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition in 2006—a local non-profit organization comprised of volunteers led by a Board of Directors who's mission is to '**help the people of American Samoa fight cancer**'.

With the help of leaders at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center (LBJTMC), ASCCC and the University of Hawai'i, the Coalition was awarded a 5-year Community Network Program grant from the National Cancer Institute in 2007. Housed at the LBJTMC, the Network built local capacity to **conduct community based research which informed the development of public awareness programs and outreach initiatives**. Over the past 10 years it has become evident in focus group discussions, population based surveys, and patient stipend applications that the level of cancer awareness has increased, and comprehension of screening modalities, treatment and survivorship has improved. In this way, the Coalition has achieved, and continues to develop, **sustainable health benefits in the community**.

With strong partners in the territory and abroad, the Coalition fundraises to provide financial assistance to cancer patients. In spite of economic uncertainty, local businesses and individuals provide monetary and in-kind assistance to keep the Stipend Program alive. **All donations go to local cancer patients.**